

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3357
INFO USDA

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STATE - AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, JM
SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ACQUIRING BASIC FOOD ITEMS

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON TODAY ADVISED
AMBASSADOR IRVING OF THE GOJ'S URGENT REQUEST FOR U.S.
ASSISTANCE IN ACQUIRING SEVERAL BASIC FOOD ITEMS ON
MOST CONCESSIONARY TERMS POSSIBLE. PATTERSON INDICATED
THAT AMBASSADOR RATTRAY WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE GOJ'S
REQUEST SO THAT HE COULD FOLLOW-UP IN WASHINGTON. PATTERSON
MENTIONED THAT THE GOJ WOULD ALSO BE APPROACHING THE
CANADIANS AND CHINESE ON THIS MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. AT FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S REQUEST, AMBASSADOR
IRVING ACCOMPANIED BY USAID DIRECTOR MET TODAY WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTER, ACTING MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE,
THE HEAD OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION, THE DIRECTOR
OF JAMAICA NUTRITION HOLDINGS, AND OTHER SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER SUCCINCTLY SUMMARIZED THE NEED FOR
ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING BASIC FOOD IMPORTS, POINTING TO
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THE FACT OF INADEQUATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE WHICH WOULD
RESTRICT THE GOJ FROM IMPORTING MINIMUM FOOD REQUIREMENTS.
ASIDE FROM HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER
SPOKE OF THE QUITE UNEASE AND INSTABILITY WHICH WOULD
RESULT WHICH WOULD BE IN NOBODY'S INTEREST END QUOTE.

3. PATTERSON REFERRED TO THE PRESENCE OF AN IMF TEAM.

HE SAID HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE IMF TEAM SEEMED TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE GOJ WOULD MEET ALL SEPTEMBER 30 TARGETS EXCEPT POSSIBLE ONE. FYI SHORTFALL IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE LEVEL OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. END FYI. PATTERSON ADDED THAT GOJ WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH LACK OF GROWTH TO WHICH PROBLEM THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW INTENSIVELY ADDRESSING ITSELF. COMMENT: WE CONCLUDE THAT THE GOJ HAS DETERMINED THAT TO ACHIEVE GROWTH, A LEVEL OF NON-FOOD IMPORTS IS REQUIRED WHICH WOULD LEAVE INSUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO COVER MINIMUM FOOD NEEDS.

4. PATTERSON OUTLINED FOLLOWING REQUESTS: (1) EXTENSION BEYOND NOVEMBER OF CORN DELIVERIES UNDER RECENTLY SIGNED PL 480 TITLE I; (2) EXTENSION OF CREDIT OF 180 DAYS TO 360 DAYS AND INCREASED QUANTITY OF RICE, CURRENTLY INVOLVING 3,000 TONS FOR NOVEMBER DELIVERY; (3) THREE TO TEN YEAR CREDITS FOR AS MUCH OF US\$25 MILLION OF SOYA BEANS AS POSSIBLE, (4) ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING ALMOST US\$ ONE MILLION OF CHICKEN NECKS AND BACKS BETWEEN NOW AND END OF CALENDAR YEAR; (5) ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING 100,000 CASES OF CORN BEEF; AND, (6) ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING US\$ THREE-QUARTERS MILLION OF COUNTERFLOUR.

5. PATTERSON INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF ARRANGING ADDITIONAL PL 480 OR COMMODITY IMPORT LOANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO COVER THESE NEAR TERM REQUIREMENTS. ALTHOUGH THE GOJ NEEDED HELP ON MOST CONCESSIONARY TERMS POSSIBLE, HE SAID, THE GRAVITY OF THE FOOD PROBLEM MADE IT NECESSARY TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING CCC ASSISTANCE.

6. HE INFORMED US THAT GOJ WOULD BE TALKING WITH THE CANADIANS AND THE CHINESE ON THESE MATTERS.

7. DISCUSSIONS ON THE DETAILS OF THESE REQUESTS WERE TO BE HELD LATER TODAY. WE WILL TRANSMIT THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS ASAP.

8. PATTERSON SAID HE WOULD BE CALLING AMBASSADOR RATTRAY TO INFORM HIM OF THE GOJ'S REQUESTS SO THAT RATTRAY COULD FOLLOW-UP IN WASHINGTON IRVING

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Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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